



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

April 2006 Volume 67 Number 4

club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## Happy Easter



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

### Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@eastlink.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large - Craig MacKinnon, VE1JMA	craig.mackinnon1@ns.sympatico.ca	
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	835-4865	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market Chair - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@eastlink.ca
Field Day coordinator - Howard Dickson	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

**The General Monthly Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Guest speaker will be Howard Dickson presenting "Increasing Age and Declining Numbers - is Amateur Radio in Trouble? Will a new, entry-level license aimed at young people solve the problem?"

Guests are welcome.

## HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #02-06

Be it resolved that the following:  
By-Law #10.0 COMMITTEES be amended as follows:  
By-Law #10.1- "Safety" to be added to the list of committees.  
See page 3 for more details.

### Take-15 Net Controllers

#### NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill, VE1MR, know.



April 16	Charles	VE1MCR
April 23	Chris	VA1CDB
April 30	Herb	VE1HX
May 7	Pierre	VE1PTR
May 14	Win	VE1WIN
May 21	Peter	VE1PJW

## NOTICE

If you are interested in getting fall arrest certification for tower climbing. please contact an executive member

### NOTICE

**The Dartmouth repeater auto-patch now requires an access code. Contact John, VE1WZ at 434-7095**

**Deadline for submissions to the May Reflector is Saturday, May 6, 2006**

## GENERAL INFORMATION



**TAKE-15 NET:** Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +  
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +  
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -  
access tone 151.4 Hz  
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

### PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE  
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS  
accessible through the LAN

*Events for Your Calendar***May 13 – Down East Fleamarket**

**Place:** Halifax Forum Annex, Corner of Windsor and Young St., Halifax



**Sellers access** 06:30 hrs;

**Buyers access** 09:00 hrs

**Cost:** \$4 Per Person

The Club will put on a number of **workshops** including **Power Point & DX for Windows**, iff there is enough interest. Let Howard, VE1DHD, know if you are interested in participating in such a workshop

The Super cities **Walk for MS** will be held on Sunday, May 7 in Halifax

The next **NSARA general meeting** will be at the DownEast Fleamarket, May 13, 2006.

**Field Day 2006** will be Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25.

0000Z June 3, to 2359Z June 4, 2006 **Museum Ships Weekend Event.** Ships wishing to participate should send a note to museum@nj2bb.org with the name of ship, callsign, location, QSL info and contact info for person responsible.

**2006 NSARA Picnic & AGM** – Hosted by the Yarmouth Amateur Radio Club. Tentative date is the 2nd Saturday in August. Contact is Bernie, VE1UT. Check the NSARA website for developments.



Watch for the **Lunenburg County Amateur Radio Club Steak & Salmon Supper** in August. Reservations are required so that the organizers know how much steak & how much salmon to order.

August – **International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend**

**75<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the Halifax – Amateur Club - In 2008 the HARC will have been in operation for 75 years. We're looking for ideas and talents to plan & carry out celebrations to mark this event.

Contact. Murray, VE1MMD, or Howard, VE1DHD

**Upcoming Workshops:****Power Point Workshop**

Thursday, April 27, 2006 - 7:00pm to 9:30pm - HARC Club Station

This workshop will cover the introductory as well as some of the advanced functions of Power Point. If you want to learn how to develop your own Power Point slide show, this is the workshop for you.

Howard - VE1DHD - will cover the following topics and many more:

- setting up Power Point
- designing your presentation
- how much is too much on a slide
- selecting backgrounds
- entering text, adding images, and adding sound
- animating your slides
- tips on giving your presentation.

This will be a HANDS ON workshop. If you have your own laptop with Power Point then PLEASE bring it along. The Club has ONLY 5 computers in the Club Station that can be used for those who can not bring their own computer.

Registration will be limited to the number of available computers, so please register early by contacting Howard, VE1DHD@rac.ca, as soon as possible. First come - first served!

**The Super cities Walk for MS**

will be held on Sunday, May 7 in Halifax. The route is the same as it has been for the past several years in the south end of Halifax with the start/finish point at the Dal arena. The walk begins at 10:30 AM and is usually finished around noon time. Volunteers are requested to be at the arena approximately 2 hours before the start of the walk to help with set up. I am looking for 6 volunteers to help with set up (moving tables etc.) and to help with communications

If you are available and would like to help out please let me know (preferable by email).

Rick VE1RGG cell: 209-2482  
email: rsgardiner@eastlink.ca

**DX4Win Introductory Workshop**

Thursday, May 4th, 2006 - 7:00pm to 9:30pm - HARC Club Station

This HANDS ON workshop will cover basic aspects of DX4Win and will assume that you have never used the program before.

Registration will be limited to first five (5) people to apply, unless you have your own laptop with a valid copy of DX4Win that you can bring to the session.

To register, please contact Howard - VE1DHD@rac.ca - as soon as possible. First come - first served!

**DX4Win Advanced Workshop**

Thursday, May 18th, 2006 - 7:00pm to 9:30pm - HARC Club Station

This HANDS ON workshop will cover the more advanced functions of DX4Win and will require that you have taken the Introductory course, or that you have used DX4Win at home and want to learn more.

Registration will be limited to first five (5) people to apply, unless you have your own laptop with a valid copy of DX4Win that you can bring to the session.

To register, please contact Howard - VE1DHD@rac.ca - as soon as possible. First come - first served!

**WriteLog Workshop**

Thursday, June 8th, 2006 - 7:00pm to 9:30pm - HARC Club Station

This HANDS ON workshop will cover the basic aspects of WriteLog so that Club Members who will be taking part in Field Day this year will have an opportunity to become familiar and comfortable with our new Contest Logging Software.

There will be NO registration limit for this workshop, BUT, if you have your own laptop with a valid copy of WriteLog PLEASE bring it along to the workshop.

To register, please contact Howard - VE1DHD@rac.ca - ASAP. All who plan to attend and operate on Field day are encouraged to attend.

(Continued on page 3)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another month has passed and May is shaping up to be a busy month for the club, with June just as busy or more so.

Check out what is happening on page 2 and other places in the newsletter. The workshops should be good judging from the great job Howard did on the HF tutorial session.

The flea market is always a great social event as well as a chance to sell some of your unused gear and pick up some new or new to you gear and accessories. There will be at least one commercial dealer at the flea market and if you want them to bring a particular item please let them know.

Planning for the Museum Ships weekend is underway as well as the planning for the ARRL Field Day. Field Day this year will be at York Redoubt so some extra planning is involved with a new site. From all accounts it should be a good site and we hope propagation is reasonable. We are near the bottom of the sunspot cycle so things could be interesting.

Summer is approaching and now is a good time to start planning antenna work. The club now has a safety committee and hope you will all work safely during the coming months. From time to time there will be a safety column in the newsletter, hopefully you will find things of interest in these notes.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

*"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later." -- Mary Bly*

(Continued from page 2)

### Contesting Workshop

Saturday, June 17th, 2006 - 9:30am - 12:30pm - EOC in the Emergency Measures Building, 21 Mt. Hope Dr. in Dartmouth.

This workshop is intended to get Club Members, who will be participating in Field Day, psyched up and prepared for the challenge. HARC is planning on being #1 overall in the 2-Alpha class in 2006, so we have to be prepared! If you plan to take part in Field Day 2006, this workshop is a MUST for you.

To register, please contact Howard - VE1DHD@rac.ca - as soon as possible. All who plan to attend and operate on Field day are encouraged to attend.

D. Howard Dickson - VE1DHD

### Space Weather News for April 3

Solar activity is suddenly increasing. The biggest sunspots of the year are crossing the solar disk; one group is longer than 10 Earth diameters and poses a threat for solar flares. Meanwhile, astronomers are monitoring a large and delightfully complex prominence dancing long the sun's limb. Whether all this will translate into magnetic storms and auroras remains to be seen. Please visit

<http://spaceweather.com>  
for pictures and updates.

Would you like to know about solar flares the instant they erupt? Sign up for SpaceWeather PHONE:

<http://spaceweatherphone.com>

Courtesy of Wayne, VE1WPH

The HARC plans to produce a 75th Anniversary issue of the Callbook to be released in 2008. Do you have any "historic" or otherwise suitable photos for this book?



### SPECIAL RESOLUTION #02-06

Be it resolved that the following: By-Law #10.0 COMMITTEES be amended as follows: By-Law #10.1- "Safety" to be added to the list of committees.

Note of explanation: It has been agreed at the March, 2006 regular meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) that a safety officer be appointed. The duties of this position includes the overseeing of club activities (as it relates to safety issues), the preparation and delivery of a short safety talk at regular monthly meetings, and the preparation of safety topics for insertion in the monthly editions of the Reflector. As a "Committee" under article 10.1 of our by-laws, the chair or in this case, the safety officer, has the ability to appoint additional members of the committee as required. Membership on this committee shall end following election of the Board of Directors at each annual general meeting.

G. Murray MacDonald,  
VE1MMD, Secretary, HARC

*Because this is a change to the HARC constitution the needed quorum is 20 % of members present to vote. Please attend the April meeting if at all possible. - ed.*

Halifax Information Radio 97.9 FM  
in the event of  
emergency becomes a  
communications arm of EMO.

### Puzzler - Do You Know?

The planets in our solar system, with one exception, rotate in the same direction. In which directions do our sun's planets turn?



*Answer on page 8*

*Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't*





Hams & spouses (and baby Ian mugging for the camera) at the Ham Breakfast, March 18, 2006



### Safety Corner April 2006

by Terry, VE1TRB

I have agreed to take on the duties of the Club Safety Officer, mainly because I believe the need to conduct all activities in a safe manner is of most importance. I believe that if an activity cannot be conducted in a safe manner it is simply not worth doing. There is no need to take an unnecessary chance and get injured or injure someone, else in anything we do. There's a saying I used to use when I was in the Navy "if you don't get a warm fuzzy feeling about something because it doesn't seem safe, don't do it". This is when you seek advice from someone else.

The nicer weather is upon us and most will want to ensure our antenna systems survived the wind, snow, and ice but are not really sure what to look for. Here are a few things you might want to check, without even leaving the ground. If you do plan on climbing that beautiful structure in your back yard, there are some checks you should do even before you leave the ground.

Before you start, put on a pair of gloves to protect you from sharp pieces of rope, wire, or steel. You might want to put on a hard hat too. Visually check the structure from the ground as best you can, looking for anything loose or missing (you might want to do the visual on a windy day). Next, if your system is guyed, give each and every single guy wire or rope a good side-ways pull to ensure the guy itself is in good condition, and the anchor is doing its job. If you have any wire antennas connected to your tower, let them go loose and see if there is any movement in the structure (your wire antenna may have been working as a guy wire). Check your feed lines to ensure they are still tied to the support structure, and check for any cracks in your cables too. If you do not have the knowledge, proper safety equipment, tools and someone on the ground to help in case of an emergency, think twice about climbing your tower, there are club members available to assist you.

The Down East Flea Market is coming 13 May, and if you are a seller, make sure your stuff is placed in a position that is safe for you, your buyers and the equipment itself. Make sure that extension cords are situated so as not to present a tripping hazard. Make sure that any wires or antenna elements are not sticking out in a place that a person can get hurt. If you are a buyer, and if you happen to find a real cool antenna, make sure you are in full control of all parts that are sticking out.

#### REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email.

*Grandchildren are God's reward  
for not killing your own children.*

I came across a web site with a truly WONDERFUL article on HF operation and etiquette. It provides all sorts of very useful information on operating etiquette as well as operating tips for HF rag chewers; DXers; Contesters etc. It should be mandatory reading for all Hams that are new to the HF bands, and I expect that more experienced Hams will also find lots of good information and tips as well. I certainly did!

I know that many were exasperated by the bad - indeed rude - operating techniques displayed by many during the recent DXpedition in Antarctica - personally I was shocked by some of the disgusting behaviour that was prevalent during this latest operation. It is refreshing then to read the article that Mark, ON4WW has written on the topic that he calls "Operating Practice", and it has apparently been accepted for publication in the Union of Belgian Radio Amateurs Ham courses. He has posted it on his web site. I have read it and it is very much worth a look. It is long and you will probably want to print it and take time to read it from paper, rather than on the screen. The web site is: <http://www.on4ww.be/op.html>

Howard - VE1DHD

**Gazette Notice SMSE-005-05 Consultation Paper on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Communication Communication Systems July 30 / 05**

A letter from Jim Hatch VE7CIJ, passed along by Joe, VE1EEE, points us to Industry Canada's website where letters from individuals, organizations, businesses, etc. have been published as Comments Received on Gazette Notice SMSE-005-05. Go to

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/infmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08488e.html>

Letters/comments are published under the headings "Private Individuals" and "Associations & Companies". The HARC's comments are in the Associations and Companies section The lists are it in alphabetical order.

The comments by Dr. Ken Tapping, National Research Council, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, express concern that Radio Astronomy (and other legitimate radio spectrum uses) may be interfered with by both fundamental & harmonic emissions of BPL

*Those letters I've read so far have seemed to be articulate and persuasive. Access BPL seems to be almost as hard on the radio spectrum as the old spark gap radio equipment which was outlawed sometime between WWI and WW2. So which weighs more, reason or money? -ed*

**Search And Rescue note - 123MHZ** is the Canada-wide VHF common frequency. At this summer's SAR conference it was proposed to designate 149.080 MHz as a common frequency

**HARC Tube Bank** Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Manager by e-mail [tubes@37.com](mailto:tubes@37.com) or snail mail: 99 Hyson Point Rd.



Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0  
There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted.  
Shipping/mailing is extra..

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, #10 March 10, 2006

A new Motorola white paper, "Practical, Proven Broadband over Power Line," describes how its Powerline LV BPL system "passes muster with Amateur Radio operators." Motorola and ARRL have cooperated in tests of the system, which the League has cited in FCC filings as one that minimizes radio frequency interference--both from and to the system--by design. "Motorola's white paper bears out that the ARRL is not opposed to the deployment of well-engineered BPL systems designed with interference avoidance in mind," ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented. "We are opposed to BPL interference." Sumner said the League remains opposed to deployment of BPL technology having "an inherently high probability of causing harmful interference to radio communication." The Motorola white paper includes a summary of the company's experiences after installing a Powerline LV system at ARRL Headquarters and W1AW, as reported in November 2005 QST <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0511085.pdf>>. The Powerline LV system avoids putting digital signals on medium-voltage power lines and incorporates enhanced ham band notching.

Information about BPL & Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site  
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

**How it all began** *In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a rug trader by the name of Abraham of the house of Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot.*

*Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, in her younger years, she was known to some as 'Amazon Dot Com.' And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why must Thou travel so far from town to town with all thy goods when Thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"*

*And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"*

*And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which offer the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums with deliveries made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."*

*Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And so it was that the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy.*

*A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And thus the young man, and others of his ilk, did take to Dot Com's trading as the greedy horsefly takes to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Enterprising Recklessly Devious Siderites, or NERDS for short.*

*And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.*

*And Dot did come to lament, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."*

*And Abraham pondered, as he gazed out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "E-Bay." He said, "we need a name that reflects what we are."*

*And Dot replied, "We are Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And that's really how it all began.*

The initials "I.P.A.R.N." stand for Inter-Provincial Amateur Radio Network

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes - Monthly General  
Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1932 with 35 members in attendance.

Silent Keys: There were no silent keys to report.

Guests / Visitors.

Ernie Wall – Industry Canada; Gopal Giokeda; Scott Hawkes, VE1SLH, (guest speaker); Al Cyples, VE1CYP; David Mosher, VE1DIM; Frank Wilson

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President; Rob Ewert (VE1KS) 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) 2nd Vice President; Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer.

Regrets: Craig Mac Kinnon (VE1JMA) Member at Large; Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past President; Brian Allen (VE1AZV) Station Manager.

Minutes of the February 15, 2006 monthly general meeting: It was moved by Emile (VE1ESP) and seconded by Terry (VE1TRB) that the minutes of the February 15, 2006 meeting, as printed in the March edition of the Reflector, be adopted. Motion was carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's report: Fraser (VE1WO) reported that the current bank balance was \$10,431.52. He then presented a comprehensive review of the financial status of the club with a review of income and expenses for the past five (5) months. Following a review of the financial report, it was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) and seconded by George (VE1CAW) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion was carried.

Secretary's report: Murray (VE1MMD) reported that he had received one applicant for the posted position of safety officer. This item would be dealt with under new busi-

ness. He reported that the preparations for the flea market were well under way, but that we still require a number of door prizes. He requested the membership to attempt to obtain door prizes. He also reported that the pamphlets, designed by Leo (VE1LS) and obtained by Tom (VE1GTC) were now available.

President's report: Nothing to report.

1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President's report: Rob (VE1KS) reported that the IRLP node was working great, and that the tone which had been added to VE1HNS is working well. He reported that things are progressing well at the site at Keji and that the solar panels and other equipment had been obtained. A weekend work party is planned for either the end of May or the beginning of June and that a work crew will be needed. If you are available, please let Rob know.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President's report: Howard (VE1DHD) advised that the door prizes for the evening draw was a pop rivet tool. He reported that the Stepping Up to HF Workshop is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> with five (5) participants signed up. The workshop is scheduled to be held from 0900 until 1600 with a lunch break. The cost is \$10.00 which included lunch and handouts. The annual Ham Breakfast is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Steak and Stein on Young St. commencing at 0900. He reported that he still has a number of generic QSL cards available for sale at a cost of 10 for \$2.50. Howard gave an update on the City Watch program and despite some initial problems; it appears that the systems now works well. If you do not want to be included on the City Watch call list, please let Howard know. The entertainment for the evening will be a presentation by Scott Hawkes (VE1SLH) on the TMR system.

Station Manager's report: The secretary reported that he had received

regrets from the station manager but that he had forwarded the following report. Fraser MacDougall and I went to Bill's home and removed several tower sections from his lawn to the storage at the Bloomfield Centre. Many thanks to Fraser for the use of his truck on such short notice.

Other activities planned are the removal of all other equipment in the old bldg. as well as a plan to do the Museum Ships weekend in June-3/4th- there will a call for operators once again so please take a look at your schedules and try to keep it free if you wish to participate.... everyone had a great time with this event.

I am trying to contact the Commodore to make sure we have the ships chart room for the weekend

Member at Large: Craig (VE1JMA) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

Past President's report: Dick (VE1AI) sent his regrets and advised that he had nothing to report.

**Committee reports:**

Membership: Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there were 103 members signed up for 2006; (83 full, 18 associate and 2 life).

Search and Rescue: Dave George (VE1AJP) reported that a number of communication problems had occurred recently involving the pagers and the radios. Cell phones are being considered as an option to the pagers currently used.

EMO: Dave George (VE1AJP) advised that the ten (10) call signs (VA1HSA – VA1HSJ) have been now issued and will be assigned to local hospitals.

Flea Market: Murray (VE1MMD) Nothing further to report.

Field Day: Howard (VE1DHD) reported that the York Redoubt site has been selected as the site for this year's field day location. The site will be visited by a number of the executive to determine the best locations for the various stations and equipment. There are washrooms on

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## HARC Minutes - Monthly General Meeting – Wednesday, Mar.15/06

(Continued from page 6)

site to which we will have access. We will operate as a 2 Alpha site using the call sign VE1FO.

**DX Forum:** There was nothing new to report. There will be a Forum and a large number of participants are expected.

**Course:** Scott (VE1QD) reported that the course is now completed and that it is anticipated that 10-12 are expected to sit for the basic exam. The students have done quite well and consistently score 85-90% on the tests provided by the exam generator. It is also expected that 3 or 4 of the students will also sit for the advanced exam.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to report.

**New Business:**

**Safety Officer:** Following discussion on the position of safety officer, it was moved by Murray (VE1MMD) and Seconded by Tom (VE1GTC) that Terry (VE1TRB) be appointed as safety officer for the year 2006. It was agreed that a special resolution should be prepared to cover the ap-

pointment of a safety officer and whether the position was an executive position or that of a committee. Murray (VE1MMD) to prepare the special resolution for publication in the next edition of the Reflector.

**Announcements:**

**SARA;** Emile (VE1ESP) reminded those present that the SARA group will be have a number of tables at the Down East Flea Market and would welcome donations of unwanted gear and equipment. Please let Emile know if you are able to help.

**50/50:** The 50/50 draw in the amount of \$30.00 was won by Ernie Wall (guest)



**Door Prize:** The pair of a pop rivet tool was won by Barry Diggins (VE1TRI).



It was moved by Doug (VE1LDL) that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD  
Secretary, Halifax Amateur Radio Club 20 March. 06

Next Meeting: - April 19th at 1930 in the club facilities.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 02, . 06 & No.8 & No.11

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit:

D2DX (Angola), current operation as of December 15, 2004;

KH9/W0CN (Wake Island) September 17-28, 2005.

K7C (Kure Island), September 25-October 5, 2005.

K3LP/KP5 and N3KS/KP5, Desecheo Island, Dec. 16-17, 2005

YI/OM2DX, Iraq, operation commencing June 9/03.

For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>.

"DXCC Frequently Asked Questions"

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/>> can answer most questions about the DXCC program.

ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins page

<<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

*How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.*

*A letter from Spud, VE1BC, in last month's Reflector asked if others had observed ducks swimming in convoy formation. He received this response.*

ed.  
Jim Weidner, K2JXW, founder and president of The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society tells me this is common duck behaviour here in the lower 48. Therefore, our ducks are the same as their ducks or this was a fleet of their ducks here on manoeuvres. I could not help but wonder if this was the origin of the convoy system of escorting merchant ships. Very interesting and thank you one and all.

Spud VE1BC ARLHS-1052

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 11

March 17, 2006

NASA has honored CBS TV news anchor Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, for his coverage of the US space program. Cronkite, who has narrated two ARRL Amateur Radio videos, received the Ambassador of Exploration Award Feb.28. "His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions around the world," NASA said in announcing the award. NASA is presenting the Ambassador of Exploration Award to the 38 astronauts and other key individuals who participated in the Mercury, Gemini, & Apollo space programs for realizing America's vision of space exploration from 1961 to 1972. Cronkite is the first non-astronaut and only NASA outsider to receive the award.

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Brian Allen, VE1AZV

E-mail [basailor@eastlink.ca](mailto:basailor@eastlink.ca)

To prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it, **booking with Brian is a must!!**

The new Contest Administrator for the NSARA is Martin Thomas, (VE1AUZ)

[mthomas@bwr.eastlink.ca](mailto:mthomas@bwr.eastlink.ca)

Mailing address for contests is:

NSARA Contest C/O

Martin Thomas (VE1AUZ)

R.R.#1 Bridgewater, Lun. Co., NS

## From the Mail Bag



March 17, 2006

To the HARC Executive

I wish to extend my sincerest thank you to the Halifax Amateur Radio Club for presenting such a comprehensive Licensing Course for the 2005-2006 season. The material covered was not just restricted to how to pass the exam, but also, it introduced newcomers to the wide range of possibilities in Amateur Radio. The time commitment and dedication from the instructors was overwhelming.

A special thank you to Scott Wood who provided the glue to hold the course together. He faithfully sat through every session possible and added insights to each instructor's presentation. Of course, thank you is also extended to Jeff Smith, Howard Dickson, and the other instructors that all presented a technical subject in a fun, knowledgeable manner. Each brought their own specialty of interest or approach to their presentations.

The commitment of HARC members in helping people obtain their certificate was even more exemplified by the many members that supervised at the exam writing on March 16. They clearly demonstrated their love of the hobby, their commitment to professionalism and standards, and their desire to extend Amateur Radio for generations to come.

Thank you  
Carolyn Sparling

Ken, VY2RU, draws our attention to "US Repeater Guide" on line at <http://www.ham-shack.com/repeater.html>



## Answer to puzzler on page 3

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. All of the other planets turn counter-clockwise

Hi Bill and Howard:

At the last meeting when you were talking about the 75th anniversary and mentioned an award for working 75 members I was thinking that maybe they should get extra Brownie Points for working one of the original 1933 call signs. At the meeting I was thinking Bill Bligh did not move to Halifax until 1936 but he was here in 1932. Attached is the oldest card I have. It was stamped at the Halifax Post Office at 11:30 PM on August 8, 1932 and is a QSL for a contact he had with VE1EL in Moncton on 80 meters.

Bill was assigned 1BC in 1924 I believe and that was changed to VE1BC in 1927 I believe. He was very active in the Halifax Club and a few of the old timers still left that can remember should confirm this. He died in May 1965 a young man and his wife Evelyn changed her VE1OW call to his VE1BC. Evelyn let me have the call in January 1975.

Bill had a daily contact with me in the square rigger Bounty when I was signing VE0MO. He went way out of his way for we the crewmembers in Bounty. He used to keep a chart and show our daily position in his store window, Bligh's Radio and TV Repair. He used to have our wives over to his home for a chat with us at sea and so on. We tried a three way QSO that did not work out. Bill was a descendant of Captain Bligh of Bounty fame. I as VE0MO in the ship was off the west coast of Mexico. Bill VE1BC here in Halifax and Floyd McCoy VR6AC, a descendant of the Bounty Mutineers on Pitcairn Island. I could hear Floyd and Bill but Bill and Floyd could not hear each other. I felt bad about it but nothing I could do of course.

For what it is worth here is the card and my two cents worth. There must be other club members holding a call from the 1933 members.

73 Spud VE1BC

*And speaking of two cents worth, there's a 2 cent stamp on the front of this 1932 QSL card and the cancellation stamp advises the reader to BUY A DOMINION GOVERNMENT ANNUITY -ed.*

HALIFAX, N. S., CANADA,  
9 Parker 283 Oxford Street,  
RADIO VE1BC, wkd Hr. often 19.30 at all times, a. s. t.  
QSA 4 to 5 R 5 to 8 Band, 80 meter  
**VE1BC**  
TRANSMITTER 47xtal(3528kc) 47 buffer, 211E Amp  
RECEIVER Super Het.  
REMARKS Tnx v.v. fer QSO  
PSE. QSL.—TNX M. A. R. A. 73 de W. S. BLIGH

Note: The Canadian "new" call letter assignments & regulations were set out by the government in 1929. (Source "from spark to space The Story of Amateur Radio in Canada" by the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club) -ed.



## A BACKGROUND LOOK AT SEASIDE-FM (94.7)

Seaside Broadcasting Organization is a not for profit organization based in Eastern Passage which is staffed by dedicated volunteer community members. Its members acquired a full time license for a Community-Based type B FM radio station to serve the Metro Halifax area in December, 1999. On August 5, 2002 SEASIDE-FM began full time, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week operation.

The members of Seaside Broadcasting Organization have developed a format that supplies Metro Halifax's mature audiences with unique listening pleasure that's not currently being heard on any other radio station in the metro area. The station combines conversations with local well known musicians, politicians and other individuals who make a difference in the community. The music format consists of easy listening, adult contemporary, big band, swing, jazz, east coast, instrumentals, etc.

The station has a dedicated base of over 40 volunteer broadcasters with a vast amount of experience in the business which includes Paul Marr, Gail Rice, Paul Kennedy, Bob Cooke, Bruce Ward, Loran Fevens and many others. These volunteers perform tasks such as production work, helping in reporting the news, weather & sports, sales and administrative duties along with broadcasting shows.

The station began broadcasting under a Special Events license in 1998 for the Eastern Passage Summer Carnival days (ten days) During this time the station ran like most other radio stations but focused mainly on the local Summer Carnival and allowed locally owned businesses the opportunity to advertise during the Carnival

In December of 1999 a 20 day Special Events broadcast was presented titled "Christmas from the Passage". This broadcast assisted several local groups by broadcasting radiothons in their support. Seaside Broadcasting is willing to help out any community organization by bringing attention to their cause through public service announcements.

Continuing the Special Events broadcasts for these two events over the next 3 years contributed to the decision of the CRTC to grant Seaside Broadcasting Organization a full time license. The decision to amend the business organization from a sole proprietorship to a society was made in early 2000.

The strong support the station received is reflected in the amount of Public Service Announcements that continue to be sent to the station to be aired for local community agencies such as the Halifax Regional Police and Fire Department, the RCMP, Lions Club, etc. Several national agencies (such as The Kidney Foundation, Big Brothers, USC of Canada, Red Cross) mailed their public service announcements to the station to be aired as well.

SEASIDE-FM phone (902) 469-9231 E-mail [seasidefm@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:seasidefm@ns.sympatico.ca)

Passed on by Joe Bellefontaine, VE1EEE

HARC has a stock of **Anderson Powerpole connectors** for sale at \$1.25 each (for a red and black connector for one complete end ). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, by E-mail [tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, # 08  
Telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, plans to reform Amateur Radio licensing in Great Britain. The main change is that Amateur Radio licenses will be issued for life, although licensees will have to confirm their license details every 5 years. The Radio Society of Great Britain says it welcomes the Amateur Radio licensing reforms.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 08  
February 24, 2006

## SUITSAT-1 is SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the (ARISS) program. In operation for more than 2 weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week.

More than nine million hits at the SuitSat Web site attest to the level of interest in the SuitSat-1 experiment.

Bob King, VE6BLD, in Alberta posted the last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio, Saturday, February 18, at 0332 UTC. Richard Crow, N2SPI, in New York received the last confirmed telemetry, which indicated the battery voltage dropping precipitously to a low of 18.3 V before the novel satellite ceased to transmit.

Hearing SuitSat-1's puny signal strength generally required gain antennas, but ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says he heard SuitSat with a 3-element Arrow antenna. Another challenge to signal reception, he said, was the very deep fading due to the suit's rotation in orbit. Bauer says that the telemetry has shown, temperatures within the suit were a somewhat comfortable 12-16 degrees C during the entire mission." "It was alive and operated flawlessly, except the signal strength issue, from the time the crew flipped the switches until the battery power was used up," he said. The SuitSat team has only just begun studying what might have caused the weak signal.

Though no longer transmitting, SuitSat-1 could continue orbiting Earth for another 70 to 120 days, depending on atmospheric drag, Bauer said.

More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org/>> and on the SuitSat Web site

<http://www.suitsat.org/>

*If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?*



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 08

### Revised ITU Recommendation on Use of Amateur Radio in Disasters In Effect

A revised International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Recommendation is now in force to promote "effective utilization of the amateur services in disaster mitigation and relief operations." Initially developed in 2001, the document, known as Recommendation ITU-D 13, was brought up to date last year through the efforts of an ITU-D study group and circulated to administrations around the globe for adoption.

It recommends that administrations include the amateur services in their national disaster plans, reduce barriers to effective use of amateur services for disaster communications, and develop memoranda of understanding with amateur and disaster relief organizations," explained ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. ITU-D 13 further advises cooperation among all parties in making available model agreements and "best practices" in disaster telecommunications.

The revised Recommendation takes into account changes adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. One change provides that Amateur Radio stations may be used to transmit international communications on behalf of third parties in case of emergencies or for disaster relief. Another encourages administrations "to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief." The FCC recently adopted changes to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to reflect these and other WRC-03 actions.

ITU-D 13 recognizes that effective Amateur Radio disaster communication depends "largely on the availability of amateur operators located throughout a country," and post-disaster international humanitarian assistance "often includes the provision of amateur operators and of equipment from an assisting country."

It also acknowledges that barriers in terms of gaining permission to operate and to move equipment & operators into a disaster zone "in many cases hindered the full use of telecommunications capabilities available from outside an affected country."

"The Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations," adopted in 1998 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications in Tampere, Finland, established a framework for the reduction and/or removal of such barriers. Revised in 2003, ITU-Radiocommunication Sector Recommendation M.1042-2, "Disaster Communications in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services," encouraged "the development of such services and of making such networks robust, flexible and independent of other telecommunication services and capable of operating from emergency power."

The revised Recommendation ITU-D 13 is expected to be available soon--in several languages from the ITU Web site

<http://www.itu.int>



*"There are many intelligent species in the universe  
They are all owned by cats."*

-- Anonymous



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 10, March 10, 2006

IARU represented at World Telecommunication Development Conference 2006: An International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) delegation is representing Amateur Radio at World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2006. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conference got under way March 7 in Doha, Qatar. IARU Vice President Tim El-lam, VE6SH/G4HUA, IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS, and IARU Region 1 Vice Chairman Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, are attending. WTDC 2006 will focus on development priorities aimed at bridging the "digital divide." Following in the footsteps of the recently concluded World Summit on the Information Society, the resulting Doha Action Plan will focus on utilizing the full potential of information and communication technologies to "connect the unconnected and accelerate the pace of social and economic development," the ITU says. Approximately 1000 delegates from government, the private sector and international and regional organizations were expected to attend WTDC 2006, which continues through March 15. ARRL Technical Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, tracked US preparations for the conference.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 11,

March 17, 2006

AMSAT has issued OSCAR numbers to the CUTE (CUBical Tokyo Institute of Technology Engineering) satellites. CUTE 1, launched in June 2003, is Cubesat-OSCAR-55 (CO-55). CUTE 1.7, launched in February 2006, is Cubesat-OSCAR-56 (CO-56). CO-56 now is transmitting a CW signal with housekeeping data. The downlink is 437.385 MHz, and the CW is about 50 WPM. The satellite's call sign is JQ1YGW. The command team asks anyone receiving the satellite to report any data collected for further study <[http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/ireceived\\_e.html](http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/ireceived_e.html)>. The latest version of the CW telemetry decoder software is available on the Lab for Space Systems/Tokyo Institute of Technology Web site <[http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/software\\_e.html](http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/software_e.html)>. More information on CO-55 and CO-56 is on the CUTE Web site <[http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cubesat/index\\_e.html](http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cubesat/index_e.html)>.

### HARC membership dues

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25      Associate = \$15

Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)